



Stephens City Newsletter

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

MARCH AND APRIL 2009

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Stephens City Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens, to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087 **Fax:** 869-6166 **Police:** 868-1012 **Website:** www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

News and Notes...

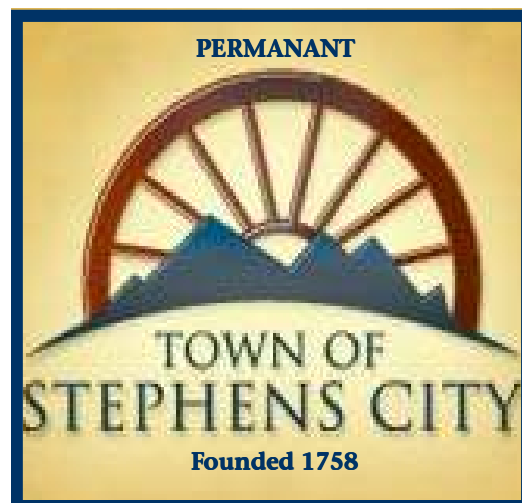
NEW PARK AND RECREATION RULES

The Stephens City Parks and Recreation Committee recently recommended a list of regulations for town parks and facilities and the establishment of certain fees for use of concession buildings, picnic shelters and reservation of the town parks for events. Please contact the town office to make an application should you wish to reserve and use these facilities. Also, please abide by the new rules and regulations that will be posted at the town parks.

SUMP PUMP INSPECTION

Town personnel will be conducting inspections throughout the town to determine if sump pumps are connected to the town's wastewater system. Sump pumps or other drainage connections that allow ground water to be directed into the sewer system are illegal.

You will be notified prior to the inspection to allow you to make arrangements to allow the inspector into your premises. Please contact the Town Manager if you have any questions in this regard.



STEPHENS CITY 2009 AUTO DECAL LICENSES

2009 decals were due without penalty by February 15th when the 2008 decals expired. All vehicles, motor cycles and trailers kept within the town limits must have a current decal displayed. If you have recently moved into the Town of Stephens City or have purchased a new vehicle, please bring your registration card with you when buying decals.

The 2009 decal will be considered permanent unless it needs to be replaced. Replacements will be issued the same way as in prior years. You must bring a piece of the old decal into the town office and a replacement will be issued to you for \$1.00.

SNOW REMOVAL

We are half way through winter, but as we all know there is still a very real possibility of snow, so in short this is what is required by the Town Code.

Property owners or occupants must clear all public sidewalks of snow where sidewalks front their property. This must be done within 6 hours after snow has ceased to fall or no later than noon the next day if snowfall stops overnight. Please contact the Town Office if you have any questions.

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDARS!

THE NEWTOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

May 23rd-24th

*Look for the Special
Newtown Heritage
Festival Newsletter
Edition in May!*

From the Town Manager's Desk...

Newtown Commons New Kiosk

We wish to thank TJ Hicks of Stephens City Scout Troop 15 for building and erecting the new kiosk (*pictured below*) along the side walk at the Newtown Commons on Main Street. TJ completed the kiosk with assistance of Troop 15 as an Eagle Scout project.

The kiosk may be used to post government public notices, church and civic group announcements and other approved community information. To use the kiosk bulletin board, please send or bring the proposed material to the Town Office for approval. The kiosk is not to be used for yard sale notices or advertisements of an individual nature. Postings are to be removed by the responsible party after the event is over.

Again, we wish to thank TJ Hicks and congratulate him on attaining his Eagle Scout status.

*Mike Kehoe
Town Manager*



Frozen Water Lines

Most of the time the first place to check for a frozen water line is an exposed drafty area beneath or within your home or business. Find and be aware of where the cutoff valve is within your home. **Do not open a water meter box** unless you have contacted the Town. Town water meters are insulated and not prone to freezing. If you have a problem with frozen water lines, during office hours you may call 540-869-3087, after hours contact 540-662-6162.

Yard Waste Site

The Town's yard waste site is for leaves, brush, and garden waste only. **IT IS NOT A LANDFILL!** Persons caught dumping anything other than leaves, brush, and garden waste will be charged with illegal dumping which is punishable by law. If these rules are abused, the Town may be forced to close the site.

Sincerely, Town Administration

NEWTOWN LOCAL MARKET

Season opening during
NEWTOWN HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Thursday, May 21st– Friday, May 22nd
4:00pm - 7:00pm
Saturday, May 23rd - 8:00am– 4:00pm
Sunday, May 24th - 10:00am - 4:00pm

Locally grown produce, locally raised meats and handmade crafts.

Local vendor information:
Contact Angela Mohr (540- 869-8529)
or tenoak@comcast.net
or
Kate Fravel (540-869-4994)

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing end **Monday, April 6, 2009** and are due upon receipt.

After **April 6, 2009** a **10% penalty** will be added. On **Monday, April 13, 2009** service will be discontinued for delinquency. A reconnect fee of

\$25 plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder that for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off check or money order payments and payments can now be made online at the Town's website. Only Water/

Sewer bills can be paid using a Visa or MasterCard! If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 reconnect fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

PLEASE do not put cash in the drop box!

The Police Chief's Docket...

Speeding Complaints:

Over the past year the Stephens City Police Department has been receiving citizens complaints of excessive speeding in several areas of the Town. These areas include North Main St., Fairfax St., Mulberry St., and South Main St. Due to these complaints, enforcement has been stepped up to control the speeding issues. The speed limit on Main St. is 25mph, as it is throughout all residential streets within the Town.

The Police Dept. asks that all drivers please obey the posted speed limits. Let's work together to keep Stephens City a safe place to live and work.

Keeping up to date...

The Stephens City Police Department is now equipped with two M-16 assault rifles that were obtained through the Virginia State Police Military Surplus Program. There is no cost to the Town. The rifles were received in February of this year.

Officer Ron Fox is the departments Certified Firearm instructor and Range Master. Officer Fox is charged with training all of the SCPD officers in the proper use of the weapons and certifying them at the firing range. The SCPD is now equipped with the same weapons as all the other law enforcement agencies within the area.

Chief Charles Bockey

The Planner's Corner...

What's with all the Public Hearings?

If you have been reading the Winchester Star or the Northern Virginia Daily in the announcements section you would have noticed that the Town of Stephens City has been having quite a few public hearings here recently. So was I thinking about what to write about for this newsletter, I decided that it might be a good time to talk about why we have public hearings and why they are important.

First, why do we have all these public hearings? The simple answer is that we are required to per the Virginia State Code. Essentially, anytime the Town takes action on land uses or finances we are required to hold a public hearing. In general this requirement is carried through in both the Town Council and Planning Commission meetings by having a set time for the meetings each month and by having a public comment session at each

meeting. However, with regard to land use or land decisions, the state requires the Town to have a dedicated public hearing both at the Planning Commission and the Town Council meetings. The Planning Commission acts only as a recommending committee and the Town Council has the final decision.

Furthermore, per the state requirements, we are required to advertise a public hearing for two (2) consecutive weeks, with a week in between prior to a public hearing. The Town is also required to send Certified Mail announcing the public hearing to each adjoining landowner to the property in question.

The point of the public hearing is to give the citizens of the Town a chance to hear and comment on what is being proposed with regard to land use or other issues. There is a lot of work that is put into land use applications prior to the application making it to a public hearing by the

applicant, various committees, and administrative staff. However, all meetings are open to the public and citizens are privy to all information being presented at municipal meetings. The public hearing gives every citizen an opportunity to comment on the proposal prior to any action taking place. It is this right; believe it or not that still resides throughout every level of government that our founding fathers of the United States of America based democracy on. Something to think about the next time you read a public hearing announcement in the paper.

Till the next newsletter, this is the Planner's Corner.

Brian Henshaw
Town Planner

Town Calendar of Events

MARCH

Mar. 3	Town Council at 7:30pm
Mar. 5	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
Mar. 9	Personnel Committee meeting at 5:00pm
Mar. 17	Historic Preservation Committee at 7:30pm Happy St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 19	Water/ Sewer meeting at 9:00 am Public Works meeting at 9:30 am Newtown Heritage Festival Mtg. at 7:00pm
Mar. 23	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
Mar. 25	Finance at 5:00pm
Mar. 31	Planning Commission at 7:30pm



* All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.

APRIL

April 2	Dr. Peter B. Stickley Meeting at 7:30p.m.
April 6	Water/ Sewer Bills Due without penalty
April 7	Town Council Meeting at 7:30pm. Penalties added to Water/Sewer Bills
April 13	Personnel Committee at 5:00pm Water Shut Off Date
April 16	Water/ Sewer Meeting at 9:00am Public Works Meeting at 9:30am Newtown Heritage Festival at 7:00pm
April 21	Historic Preservation Committee at 7:30pm
April 22	Finance Committee at 5:00pm
April 27	Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:30pm
April 28	Planning Commission at 7:30pm



We're on the web!
www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov

The Business Spotlight!

The Businesses of the Stephens City Business Association recently held there second networking social and meeting at Sherwin Williams. At this meeting and networking social the Business Association elected both a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. These individuals will be introduced in the next newsletter and will be tasked with coming up with the future direction of the Stephens City Business Association and in meantime, shop locally, it's all right here!*

We look forward to seeing you!

*At the time of newsletter was written the meeting and networking social had not taken place as of yet. The meeting took place on Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

